

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application.

Claims 2-5 are allowed. Claims 1, 6-8 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 7 and 8 have been amended herein. Claims 1, 7 and 8 have been amended to recite that the compression form can be executed by a gateway apparatus relaying the data being transmitted to the internet protocol network to a destination circuit switched network and can be executed by the destination circuit switched network. Support for this amendment is found at page 22, lines 22-26 and page 24, line 14-20 of the specification. This claim amendment is made to clarify the differences between the present invention and the references cited by the Examiner. No new matter is added by the amendments.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has maintained the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 7 and 8 as unpatentable over Sieppi (U.S. 6,577,637) in view of Vargo (U.S. 6,356,545).

Applicant's seek clarification regarding Claim 6. Inasmuch as Claim 6 was allowed in the first Office Action dated June 15, 2005, and depends from allowed Claim 4, please advise if Claim 6 has now been rejected.

The present invention is directed to a gateway apparatus which advantageously shortens transmission time of sound data. When a transmission rate of data on the input side of the gateway apparatus is not less than a transmission rate of data on the output side, an expansion/compression process in the gateway apparatus is omitted, thereby reducing data transmission time.

Neither Sieppi nor Vargo, alone or in combination show a judging section. Sieppi discloses only the feature of determining, based on an IP-address and a telephone number of the

subscriber station, if the speech encoding (compression) is necessary or if the speech decoding (decompression) is necessary, and features of determining whether compression is performed or not based on utilization of CODEC of the subscriber station. Sieppi does not disclose SSTDM that judges whether the compression form, which can be executed by a gateway apparatus relaying the data being transmitted to the internet protocol network to a destination circuit switched network and can be executed by the destination circuit switched network, set by the setting section coincides with the compression form of the compressed data received from the circuit switched network or not.

Applicants maintain that there is no disclosure, or even suggestion, in the cited sections of Sieppi of a judging section, as recited in the claims. That is, Sieppi does not teach or suggest judging the compression form of received data to determine whether it coincides with the compression form set by a setting section, as claimed in claim 1. Further, Sieppi cannot be easily modified to include the unique structural and functional advantages heretofore described.

Applicant further maintains that Vargo also fails to teach the feature of a judging section. Nowhere does Vargo disclose or suggest passing though packets if it is judged that the *set compression form* is the same as that form received from the circuit switched network.

Therefore, the combination of Sieppi and Vargo would not lead one skilled in the art to the present invention because even such combined teaching would not suggest a judging section as claimed in the pending claims. For at least the foregoing reasons it is respectfully submitted that Sieppi in combination with Vargo does not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features in claim 1.

Applicant's claims 7 and 8 also include a feature of a judging section judging whether the compression form set by said setting section coincides with the compression form of the

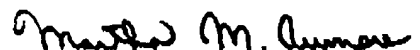
compressed data received from the high-order network or not. The judging section in claims 7 and 8 is therefore different from the combination of the cited references.

Nothing in the cited references suggests combining the diverse teachings in any manner that would result in the claimed invention. Accordingly, it is urged that the unique structural and functional composition of the present application is unobvious. It is respectfully submitted that the present application provides patentable merits over the prior art documents either individually or in combination and, thus, allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action in order to further prosecution.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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